

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Eric Newland, Area Management Biologist
Breena Apgar-Kurtz, Asst. Area Manager
Phone: (907) 949-1320
Fax: (907) 949-1830

Lower Yukon Area Office
P.O. Box 127
Emmonak, AK 99581
Date Issued: 7/8/2013

2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #50

Summer Announcement #46, District 1 Subsistence Fishing Schedule

and Commercial Fishing Period

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 109,600 Chinook salmon through July 7 is well below the historical average of 133,500 for this date. Conversely, the Pilot Station sonar summer chum salmon passage estimate is approximately 2.4 million fish which is well above the median of 1.6 million for this date. Poor Chinook salmon run sizes in recent years warrant continued caution as the 2013 run progresses.

Based on current run assessment information, additional measures are being taken to conserve Chinook salmon for escapement. A reduced subsistence fishing schedule in District 1 is being implemented with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets to target abundant summer chum salmon while avoiding Chinook salmon.

Coastal District: Subsistence salmon fishing for the entire Coastal District is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

District 1 Subsistence Gillnet Salmon Fishing: Subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets is currently closed. Effective 8:00 p.m. Monday, July 8, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 18-hour periods per week from 8:00 p.m. Mondays until 2:00 p.m. Tuesdays and from 8:00 p.m. Thursdays until 2:00 p.m. Fridays, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size. Subsistence fishermen using 6-inch or smaller mesh size may keep Chinook salmon for subsistence purposes

Based on the abundance of summer chum salmon, this announcement opens one 6-hour commercial salmon fishing period in District 1. The preliminary commercial harvest in Districts 1 and 2 combined through July 7 is approximately 263,000 summer chum salmon with a reported 966 Chinook salmon released and 102 Chinook salmon caught but not sold

District 1 Commercial Gillnet Salmon Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing in the entire District 1 area will be open for one 6-hour period from 8:00 p.m. Monday, July 8, until 2:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 9, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to target summer chum salmon.

Once again, all of District 1 is open for commercial fishing during this period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size. Commercial gillnet fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or retain them for subsistence purposes. The sale of Chinook salmon is prohibited and Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.

Fishermen in District 1 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding the commercial salmon fishing opportunities.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Emmonak at 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 456-0418.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

-end-